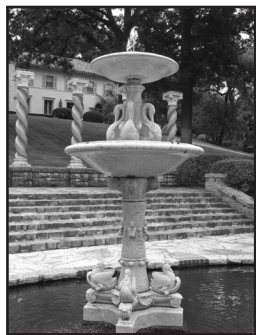


THE COLUMNS

A Publication for the Residents of Mission Hills

Summer 2011

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Cararra marble fountain
at Verona Columns

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Good Things Are Happening in Mission Hills



Rick Boeshaar
Mayor

There is much activity in our fair City this summer. We kicked off our social activities with the annual City of Mission Hills Keim Street Fair in early June. Many families enjoyed getting outside, seeing friends and neighbors, and the kids had fun at all the activity centers. On that same day we rededicated the renewed Sunken Garden Park and placed a beautiful memorial bench in honor of Reed Hickok. As this newsletter is being published I know neighborhoods are planning their annual Independence Day block parties. The social activities are a great part of the summer fun!

The business side of the City is in full swing as well. The City's Park Board has taken its usual care in planting flowers and cleaning up our parks and islands. Building permits have increased, as we usually see this time of year, and agendas have been full at the Architectural Review Board. New volunteers have taken their seats on all our City boards and we appreciate their spirit of service and willingness to make our City work well. You can stay informed on all the meetings of the City by checking our website at www.missionhillsks.gov. There you will find updates on issues, minutes of meetings, a calendar of future meetings, and other helpful information such as the allowed hours for noisy activities like yard mowing and construction work. You can also learn when trash pickup holidays cause your pickup to be one day later.

We are bringing two years of work on the redevelopment issue to its final stages this summer. Sargent Town Planning, a professional urban planning firm, in conjunction with the City's Planning Commission, will hold public forums to gather input on design guidelines for development in our City. Other upscale communities across the country have successfully used design guidelines to augment zoning ordinances with the ultimate goal of achieving what is intended in the City's comprehensive plan. In communities which have as much variation in lot sizes and shapes and where residents want to foster the ambience we appreciate here in Mission Hills, design guidelines have proven to be an effective way of balancing the wants and needs of owners who are building or remodeling with the needs of existing homeowners who want to preserve the ambience that caused them to move here in the first place.

Every effort is being made to solicit the input of all residents in this process. We urge you to attend and participate in the open forum meetings. A letter was sent to every home with dates and topics to be discussed. Help keep Mission Hills the great community that it is by being involved. Enjoy your summer!

The winter snows and the spring rains have certainly made our City's landscaping look great! Thanks to all of you who take such good care of your property! ■

Sunken Garden Rededication



On Saturday, June 4, residents gathered to celebrate the renewal of the Sunken Garden park. Sunken Garden is truly one of the hidden treasures of Mission Hills. Donated to the City in 1984 by Wood and Claire Ann Arnold, who at the time owned the home adjacent to the north, the park offers passersby a quiet spot to rest and enjoy. The park originally was home to a pond that was later filled in and replaced with the fountain that is now there. The park was first dedicated in 1988, as signified by the plaque at the northeast corner of the park.

The most recent efforts to renew the park, including new plantings and hardscape improvements, were the result of a collaboration between the Mission Hills Homes Company, the Park Board and the City of Mission Hills. The new and improved park truly embraces the original vision of J.C. Nichols and will be appreciated for years to come.

In addition to rededicating the park, family and friends of the late Reed Hickok gathered to dedicate the beautiful bench at the west end of the fountain. Reed's friends and family donated funds to purchase and install the bench in Sunken Garden. Among other community service activities, Reed volunteered his time and served as a member of the City's Architectural Review Board. Mission Hills is a unique and wonderful place to call home and Sunken Garden is a shining example of the amenities our residents cherish. ■

Sargent Town Planning Public Workshops

Sargent Town Planning will conduct two public workshops for residents of Mission Hills regarding the development of design guidelines to amplify what is written in the zoning ordinances and what is generally stated in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

July 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. (Mission Hills Country Club)

Sargent Town Planning will outline the purpose and process of their work and present diagrams and images for residents to review and provide input.

July 21, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. (Mission Hills Country Club)

Sargent Town Planning will summarize the community feedback and outline the topics to be addressed in the design guidelines.

Please RSVP to City Hall if you plan to attend so all participants can be accommodated.

Mission Hills Glass Mugs and Paper Weights For Sale

City Hall has a limited supply of Mission Hills 50th Anniversary glass paper weights and coffee mugs. They are on sale at City Hall for \$10 each (cash or check).



KCP&L Tree Safety

For safety reasons, KCP&L must trim or remove trees growing near power lines that threaten to disrupt service. Proper and regular tree trimming helps prevent the danger and inconvenience of outages. **Never** attempt to trim trees near power lines yourself. Only qualified line clearance workers are allowed to work within a minimum of 10 feet of high voltage lines. Contact KCP&L by completing an online request at www.kcpl.com or e-mailing vm@kcpl.com, to schedule an inspection of your tree and line situation.

Responsibility for Trimming

- **Pole-to-Pole:** please report broken limbs or other immediate hazards on a pole-to-pole power line. The KCP&L Line Clearance staff will assess the situation and take the appropriate action to remove any danger and make repairs.
- **Pole-to-Meter:** this is the line that delivers electricity from KCP&L power poles to the meter on your house. These lines are normally under the owner's responsibility and not trimmed by KCP&L line clearance staff. It is important that tree limbs are kept clear of these lines to prevent sparks from falling on brush or your house.
- **Drop Service Request:** in the event you (the owner/customer) need to have trees or limbs trimmed on pole-to-meter lines, simply contact KCP&L Customer Care Center and ask to drop the service wire on the pole-to-meter line so you or a contractor can safely remove the trees or limbs. **This is done at no charge.**
- **Tree Removal:** If you want to remove a tree that has limbs above a pole-to-pole line or hire a contractor to remove it, complete an online request at www.kcpl.com or e-mail the Vegetation Management Center at vm@kcpl.com. A representative will arrange for KCP&L to inspect the line at no charge and determine whether they need to trim or remove the limbs so you can then have the tree safely removed. The homeowner is responsible for the debris removal.
- **Debris Removal:** KCP&L cleans up the debris from routine clearance. If there is enough wood, it's cut into pieces that will fit into a fireplace. If you do not want the firewood, complete an online request at www.kcpl.com or e-mail the Vegetation Management Center at vm@kcpl.com to make arrangements to have the wood picked up. The homeowner is responsible for all other debris removal.

Storm Work

KCP&L does not clean up storm-related brush, logs or fallen trees. During storm restoration, KCP&L performs a courtesy knock on the door to notify the customer they are on their property. Their immediate priority is to restore power to their customers. KCP&L will clear fallen trees and limbs away from company lines and other equipment to ensure public safety, restore service and prevent future power outages. However, all tree limbs and logs are left on site and crews will NOT be returning for clean up. ■



A recent streetlight outage in a Johnson County neighborhood should serve as a reminder to residents planning spring and summer projects to consider what lies beneath in planning the project. Residents installing a new section of fence apparently damaged an underground line feeding the streetlight, resulting in the neighborhood being without the light for several weeks.

An even greater concern is the safety of a resident or contractor when digging into buried power lines. As you begin planning new fences, basketball goals, or other projects, be sure to consider the location of underground utilities and contact Kansas One-Call by dialing 811 or at www.kansasonecall.com.

Out on a Limb: Tree Talk

by George L. Eib, City Arborist



George L. Eib

We had a cool spring that delayed some trees that are leafing out late, but with little damage. We still had a good blooming of flowering trees except for Redbuds. Redbuds seem to have more deadwood in them this year.

We also have had an abundance of moisture that lasted through the middle of May which caused us to have lush growth of foliage that may require additional pruning of trees. Should we have a dry period during June through August, it

will be important to water your plant material and lawns. I recommend watering two or three times a week applying 1 inch of water, as this permits grass to establish a good deep root system which does not happen when watering every day for 15-20 minutes. Take care not to overwater.

We are in the process of planting City trees through the fall. The City's right-of-way extends 10 feet back from the curb in most areas. Planting, landscaping and removal of trees in the City's right-of-way must be approved by the City. Well known plant pathologist, Dr. Alex Shigo, states, "A city without trees is dead."

As I drive through the City, I have observed the following on private properties: ivy growing up trunks into the interior of plants (that can damage growth), and Austrian Pines (affected by Diplodia Tip Blight) and Scotch Pines (affected by Needlecast) that are dead or mostly dead and should be removed so they will not affect other healthy pines.

It is hard for me to believe at this time that by the time the winter newsletter is sent, autumn leaves will have fallen. I would like to remind residents that it is a violation of City ordinance to blow or dump leaves and/or grass clippings into the street or drainage channels. Leaves and grass block catch basins, stormwater lines and channels, so please remind your lawn services about this ordinance

If you have questions about private or City trees, you can contact me at City Hall. ■

Summer Checklist

- ✓ Watch for spider mites and bag worms on your evergreens and have them sprayed. It usually takes two sprayings, approximately 2-3 weeks apart.
- ✓ If you are having trouble with rabbits eating your plants, I recommend Rabbit Scram or Liquid Fence.
- ✓ Fertilize as needed any broad leaf evergreen plants and all acid-loving plants around the first of July.
- ✓ Do not let your dogs urinate on plant material on the parklets and City plantings, as it will kill the plants.
- ✓ Deadhead annuals to encourage late season blooms.
- ✓ Make last application of fertilizer to roses during mid-August to the first of September.
- ✓ Keep mower blades sharp. A dull blade shreds the ends of the leaf blades giving the lawn a whitish look and making it susceptible to disease.
- ✓ August 15th through September is the best time to overseed your lawn.



The 2011 City of Mission Hills Keim Street Fair, held on June 4th, was enjoyed by kids of all ages.

Protect Your Vehicles

by Matt Boggs, Crime Prevention Officer
Prairie Village Police Department

Over the last several months we have seen an increase in the theft of valuables from vehicles in Mission Hills (including the wheels). We have several reports this year of valuable items stolen overnight from vehicles in driveways and on the street. There are no specific types of vehicles targeted, except that most of them have valuable items inside or after-market wheels installed. Items taken from inside the vehicle are typically small electronics (iPods, GPS, cell phones, laptops, etc.). Wheels taken were usually off of SUVs and taken overnight.



To help prevent these types of thefts, follow these simple tips.

- Park vehicles in your garage. If you must park in the driveway, keep the vehicle well lit so neighbors and officers are able to see anyone around the vehicles.
- Install wheel locks or locking lug nuts on your wheels.
- Do not leave any valuables in your vehicle overnight. If you must leave items in the vehicle, lock them in the trunk out of sight.
- Record serial numbers of your valuables and keep the numbers in a safe place (not in the vehicle).
- Lock vehicles when you leave them. If you get in the habit of doing it every time, you will not forget to do it overnight.
- Be aware of strange people or vehicles in your neighborhood.
- Do not hesitate to call 911 or the non-emergency Police line (913-642-5151) immediately if you see or hear anything suspicious in your neighborhood.

We need you as an extra set of eyes and ears to help us catch these thieves. If you have any questions, or comments, contact Crime Prevention Officer Matt Boggs at mboggs@pvkansas.com or 913-385-4613. ■

Indian Hills Middle School Traffic Update

by Capt. Tim Schwartzkopf
Prairie Village Police Department

Due to the closing of Mission Valley Middle School, most of you are aware that the student body population at Indian Hills Middle School will increase for the 2011-2012 school year. Although we have a rough estimate of the expected population, we do not have an accurate number of students riding the bus, walking, or using private transportation to get to school. The bus ridership numbers will not be available until August. Although we are working with limited information, the Police Department has coordinated with Indian Hills Middle School on entry and exit points, improved signage, and a plan to hopefully mitigate traffic problems when school starts.

This is a work in progress, and after the first few weeks of school we will evaluate the situation, and make any changes that are reasonable and/or necessary for the safety of the students. The busiest times will be morning drop off between 8:30 – 8:40 a.m. and especially afternoon pickup between 3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Our advice would be that unless you have to, it may be best to avoid the area around Indian Hills Middle School during those times. ■



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The Columns is published three times a year for the residents of Mission Hills.

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News from Indian Hills Homes Association

Over 100 members attended the annual meeting January 27, 2011 at the Kansas City Country Club. Newly elected Board President Russell Weltner presented the new board members and officers. Mark Anderson will serve as Vice President. Cindy Parres is the new Secretary and Mary Knighton will be the Treasurer. Board Members at large are Erika Dickey, Bill Flynn and Sally Ott.

The first item on the agenda was a special recognition to the outgoing President Alison Coulson. Alison has served as president for 10 years and was presented with a plaque for her outstanding service and dedication to the city and the Association. Treasurer Mary Knighton presented the financial report for 2010 and the minutes and financials were approved.

Sally Ott, who is also on the association park board, presented the projects that were completed for 2010. The largest expenditure was for the marble relief at 63rd Street and Indian Lane (shown in the picture). The brick base had deteriorated to the point that moisture was getting inside and behind the marble piece itself. It has been repaired and restored. The association also allocated funds to prepare conceptual drawings and bid specifications for Eddy Island on Wenonga Terrace.

The board will be meeting in 2011 to decide how best to allocate the approved funds for this year. One project that President Russell Weltner initiated this year is to document all the islands in the Association. Photographs have been taken in two different seasons and will be used to document and explore the history of the various statues and urns that are in place. The pictures will also be used for enhancing the Association web site and an update of the new resident mailer. ■